THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) to (f)

Sea Harrires

A contract has been signed on the 25th November, 1985 with M/s. British Aero Space, U. K. for the supply of 11 sea Harrier Aircraft together with supporting equipment spares etc. A contract has also been signed with M/s. Rolls Royce, U.K. for some spare engines. The value of the supplies is of the order of above £ 150 million.

Westland helicopters

There is at present no decision of Government to go in for Westland helicopters although a proposal relating to their induction for civilian use is under the consideration of the Department of Civil Aviation in the Ministry of Transport. An earlier offer of M/s. Westland Helicopters was not accepted because the helicopters did not meet our specific requirements and their cost of operation was not competitive. Their revised offer both in technical and financial terms is now under consideration of the Government.

Arms Deal between India and Britain

1208. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Prime Minister's recent visit to Britain, India and Britain have signed arms deal;

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement;

(c) whether all the outstanding issues in this regard have been cleared;

(d) if not what are the issues still under dispute; and

(e) what steps are being taken to clear them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Infiltration from Bangladesh into Bihar and West Bengal

1209. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that there has been a large scale infiltration from Bangladesh into Bihar and West Bengal during the last six months;

(b) if so, what is the number of persons who have been infiltrated; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to identify them and send them back to Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) to (c) Having regard to the considerable length of Indo-Bangladesh border, intrusion from Bangladesh into West Bengal and then going over to the adjoining areas including Bihar can not be ruled out However, there have not been any reports from the Government of these States that infiltration from across the border has increased during the last six months. There also exist standing instructions with the State Governments to check identify and take necessary action against them under the law.